

2 Samuel 14:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the king answered and said unto the woman, Hide not from me, I pray thee, the thing that I shall ask thee. And the woman said, Let my lord the king now speak.

Analysis

Then the king answered and said unto the woman, Hide not from me, I pray thee, the thing that I shall ask thee. And the woman said, Let my lord the king now speak.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Absalom's Return, emphasizing incomplete reconciliation. Joab's elaborate scheme to restore Absalom demonstrates human wisdom that undermines divine purposes. The partial reconciliation (Absalom returns but doesn't see David's face) proves insufficient for genuine restoration. Theological themes include the inadequacy of human reconciliation methods apart from genuine repentance, the danger of manipulation even for apparently good ends, and the necessity of complete rather than partial restoration.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 14 occurs during David's reign (circa 1010-970 BCE) over Israel's united monarchy. Archaeological discoveries, including the Tel Dan inscription mentioning the 'House of David,' corroborate biblical historicity. Ancient Near Eastern customs regarding incomplete reconciliation provide crucial background. The geopolitical situation involved regional powers—Philistines, Ammonites, Arameans, Moabites, Edomites—as David consolidated and expanded Israel's territory. Cultural practices concerning kingship, warfare, covenant

relationships, family dynamics, and religious observance differed significantly from modern Western contexts, requiring careful attention to avoid anachronistic interpretation while extracting timeless theological principles applicable across cultures and eras.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of incomplete reconciliation?
2. What does this verse reveal about God's character, and how should that shape your worship and obedience?
3. In what specific ways can you apply this truth to your current circumstances and relationships this week?

Interlinear Text

בְּאֵלֹהִים
answered Then the king
H6030 H4428

בְּאֵשׁ הָאֵל
and said ְוַתֹּאמֶר
H413 H559

בְּאֵשׁ הַזְּנוּנִי
thee And the woman
H802 H408

בְּאֵל
H4994

אַנְכִּי אֵשׁ רַבְּכָה
Hide not from me I pray thee the thing
H3582 H4480 H1697

בְּאֵל שָׁאַל
that I shall ask
H7592 H853

בְּאֵשׁ הָאֵל
and said ְוַתֹּאמֶר
H559 H802

בְּאֵל יִדְבֶּר
thee And the woman now speak
H802 H1696

בְּאֵל
H4994

בְּאֵלֹהִים
Let my lord Then the king
H113 H4428

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